

Listing of Claims:

1. (Previously Presented) A computer-implemented method for clearing offers, which specify conditions for acceptance, and the method comprising:
 - receiving a plurality of advantaged offers;
 - associating each advantaged offer with one or more available most-favorable disadvantaged offers, wherein the conditions of acceptance of each advantaged offer are met by each disadvantaged offer that has been associated with the advantaged offer; and
 - changing the association of at least one associated advantaged offer to a newly available disadvantaged offer that offers more favorable terms than a currently associated disadvantaged offer, when the newly available disadvantaged offer is received and meets the conditions of acceptance of the associated advantaged offer.
2. (Previously Presented) A method according to claim 1, wherein the advantaged and disadvantaged offers are each associated with a pool and a corresponding pool close event.
3. (Previously Presented) A method according to claim 1, wherein the specified conditions for acceptance of the offers have attributes related to terms of acceptance of that offer, and
 - wherein determining which of the disadvantaged offers have more favorable specifications further comprises:

applying attributes of one of the advantaged offers to a price function for one of the disadvantaged offers to calculate a price.

4. (Original) A method according to claim 3, wherein the calculated price includes all appropriate costs.

5. (Previously Presented) A method according to claim 3, wherein determining which of the disadvantaged offers have more favorable specifications further comprises:
applying a weighting function to the calculated price.

6. (Previously Presented) A method according to claim 3, wherein applying attributes of one of the advantaged offers comprises:
using as the price function a table in which price ranges correspond to attributes of an advantaged offer.

7. (Previously Presented) A method according to claim 3, wherein applying attributes of one of the advantaged offers comprises:
using as the price function a computer program capable of defining a price based on attributes of an advantaged offer.

8. (Previously Presented) A method according to claim 1, wherein the specifications of conditions for acceptance of the offers include price specifications, and

wherein determining which disadvantaged offers have more favorable specifications further comprises:

comparing price specifications.

9. (Original) A method according to claim 8, wherein the price specifications are constant prices, and

wherein comparing the price specifications comprises:

comparing constant prices.

10. (Previously Presented) A method according to claim 1, wherein associating each advantaged offer with one or more of the most favorable available disadvantaged offers is performed:

in order of priority of the advantaged offers, such priority being determined by the order in which the advantaged offers were received.

11. (Previously Presented) A method according to claim 10, wherein the set of available disadvantaged offers comprise those disadvantaged offers that are not already associated with other offers.

12. (Previously Presented) A method according to claim 10, wherein the specifications of the conditions of acceptance of the advantaged offers further comprise:

a product specification, a quantity specification, a pool specification, and a fragment list;
and

wherein determining which disadvantaged offers have more favorable specifications includes:

examining the product specification, quantity specification, pool specification, and fragment list of the improvable offers.

13. (Previously Presented) A method according to claim 10, wherein the specifications of the conditions of acceptance of the disadvantaged offers further comprise:

a product specification, a quantity specification, a pool specification; and a fragment list;
and

wherein determining which disadvantaged offers have more favorable specifications includes:

examining the product specification, quantity specification, pool specification, and fragment list of the disadvantaged offers.

14. (Previously Presented) A method according to claim 12, wherein the quantity specification further comprises a minimum quantity and a maximum quantity; and

wherein determining which disadvantaged offers have more favorable specifications includes:

examining the minimum and maximum quantities.

15. (Previously Presented) A method according to claim 13, wherein the quantity specification further comprises:

a minimum quantity and a maximum quantity; and

wherein determining which disadvantaged offers have more favorable specifications includes:

examining the minimum and maximum quantities.

16. (Previously Presented) A computer-implemented method for generating events to be posted to a marketplace, the method comprising:

receiving a description of transactions to be offered in the marketplace;

expanding the description of transactions to be offered in the marketplace into at least one offer, with specified conditions of acceptance; and

generating a set of post events based on the at least one offer in a manner to cause the transactions to be offered in a marketplace in which a marketplace method for processing offers is used, and the marketplace method comprising:

receiving a plurality of advantaged offers;

associating each advantaged offer with one or more available most-favorable disadvantaged offers wherein, the conditions of acceptance of each advantaged offer are met by each disadvantaged offer that has been associated with the advantaged offer; and

changing the association of an advantaged offer to a newly available disadvantaged offer that offers more favorable terms than a currently associated disadvantaged offer, when the newly available disadvantaged offer is received and meets the conditions of acceptance of the associated advantaged offer.

17. (Original) A method according to claim 16, wherein the description of transactions is a stepped-price schedule having price breaks at each price step in the stepped-price schedule, and wherein generating a set of post events includes:
generating an uninterruptible sequence of offers, each offer in the sequence corresponding to a price step in the stepped-price schedule, and each offer having a reserve price equal to the price break of the price step.

18. (Original) A method according to claim 16, wherein the description of transactions is an all-or-none specification having a minimum quantity, and wherein generating a set of post events includes:
posting an offer with a minimum quantity specification corresponding to the minimum quantity in the all-or-none specification.

19. (Original) A method according to claim 16, wherein the description of transactions is a fill-or-kill specification having a minimum quantity, and wherein generating a set of post events includes: posting an offer with a minimum quantity specification corresponding to the minimum quantity in the fill-or-kill specification; and withdrawing the offer if the minimum quantity specification cannot be satisfied.

20. (Original) A method according to claim 16, wherein the description of transactions is a fill-and-withdraw specification having a desired quantity, and wherein generating a set of post events includes: posting an offer with a maximum quantity specification corresponding to the desired quantity in the fill-and-withdraw specification; and withdrawing any quantity of the offer not immediately filled.

21. (Original) A method according to claim 16, wherein the events include straddles specifying a straddle limit, which restricts the number of associations, and wherein generating a set of post events further comprises: creating an offer corresponding to one of the descriptions; adding the created offer to any corresponding straddles; and generating a straddle including the created the offer if no corresponding straddles exist.

22. (Original) A method according to claim 21, further comprising the steps of:
monitoring the marketplace for new opportunities to post an offer corresponding to offers
in a posted straddle; and
adding an offer corresponding to the new opportunity to the posted straddle.

23. (Original) A method according to claim 16, wherein receiving a description of
offered transactions further includes:
providing a user interface to specify products in the offer.

24. (Original) A method according to claim 16, wherein generating a set of post events
further includes:
generating offers contingent on the occurrence of an event.

25-87. Cancelled.